ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

—OF THE—

NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

SAMARIA CHURCH, WALKER COUNTY, ALABAMA,

FROM SEPT. 26th TO 28th, 1885, INCLUSIVE.

L. B. HARBIN, MODERATOR..... .....S. LACY, CLERK.

The next Session will be held with Pleasant Grove Church, Fayette county, three miles north of Studdard's Cross Roads, commencing on Saturday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1886.

MONTGOMERY, ALA.:
THE ALABAMA BAPTIST PRINT,
1885.

MINUTES.

The Fifty-first Annual Session of the North River Baptist Association, was held with Samaria Baptist Church, three miles south-east of Jasper, Walker County, Alabama, commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1885, at 11 o'clock a. m.

The introductory sermon was preached by Rev. J. W. Stewart, from 20th chapter and 28th verse of the Acts of the Apostles: "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."—theme Relation between Church and Pastor.

After preaching the Association adjourned until 2 o'clock p. m. at which time it was called to order by Rev. J. W. Rogers, the former Moderator.

After devotional exercises, the various churches and delegates were enrolled as follows:

Absentees marked thus *

Mount Zion—Rev. L. R. Carter, James Patton and John Patton.

Bethabara—Rev. Jno. W. Stewart, Jno. W Rogers and Joseph A. Stewart.*

Pleasant Grove—James Rutledge, John Grace, sr., W. A. Myers, J. J. Steadman, B. F. Thomas and John Grace, jr.

Providence—H. Beavers, C. H. Day and J. S. Watts.

Pleasant Field—Ira Watson, J. T. Grace and R. W. Minor.

New River—Rev. A. A. Smith, J. L. McCollum* and A. W. Killingsworth.

Pleasant Grove, Fayette Co.—W. C. C. Brown, A. J. Campbell* and J. A. Colburn*

Lebanon—Rev. A. Kilgore,* J. M. Thacker* and R. M. Earnest.*

Mount Joy—H. G. Amerson, B. M. Kimbrell and J. D. Pitman.

New Hope—W. J. Christian,* J. W. Bagwell and J. M. Lollar.*

Bethlehem—Rev. L. B. Harbin, J. F. McDuff and C.J.Baker.*

Bethel—M. A. Turner, O. G. Kilgore* and G. W. Kilgore.

New Prospect—W. H. Redmill, C. G. Lockhart and T. B. Randolph.

Mount Olive—M. D. L. Sanders, J. L. Burton and E. J. Phillips.

Jasper—Rev. Wm. Randolph, S. Lacy and G. D. O. Rear.

Antioch—J. M. Kirkpatrick, W. M. Jackson* and John H. Robinson.

Samaria—R. Files, R. H. Smith, J. C. Daniel and D. H. Clifton.

Liberty Grove—C. M. D. Wilson, J. W. Smith and J. M. Sides.

Hepziba—J. H. Smith, Z. H. Staggs,* J. H. Dunkin* and J. B. Sides alternate*

Friendship—James B. Tuggle and William Hyche.

Bethany—Reuben Keeton, John King and Peter Burton.

Mount Carmel—J. C. Hyche, Joseph Nation and Wm. G. Davis.*

Day's Gap—Rev. J. H. Pool, M. L. Jones* and E. R. Halbrook.*

Rev. J. W. Stewart and R. H. Smith were appointed to read letters.

The Association then elected by ballot L. B. Harbin, Moderator, S. Lacy, Clerk and R. H. Smith, Corresponding Secretary, Joseph F. Appling and J. B. Ferguson, acting as Tellers.

A petitionary letter was read from Day's Gap, a newly constituted church, asking to become a member of the Association—the same was received and enrolled as a member of this Association.

Visiting Ministers, who were not delegates, were invited

to seats in the Association. R. H. Smith offered the following programme, which was unanimously adopted, to-wit:

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Rules of Decorum and Articles of Faith.
3. Presentation of letters from the Churches.
4. Election of officers.
5. Call for petitionary letters.
6. Invite visiting members to seats.
7. Receive correspondence.
8. Return correspondence.
9. Appointment of Special Committees, 1st, on Religious Exercises, 2d, on Documents, 3d, on Nominations, 4th, on Finance, 5th, on Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
10. Call for report of District Meetings.
11. Call for report of Standing Committees, 1st, on Sunday Schools, 2d, on Temperance, 3d, on State Missions, 4th on Home Missions, 5th, on Foreign Missions, 6th, on Education, 7th, on Aged and Infirm Ministers.
12. Report of Treasurer.
13. Appointment of Treasurer.
14. Call for report of Special Committees, 1st on Documents, 2d, on Nominations, 3d, on Finance, 4th, on Prayer and Prayer meetings.
15. Call for report of Executive Committee.
16. Appointment of Standing Committees.
17. Miscellaneous business.
18. Read Minutes, call roll and adjourn.

Rev. J. W. Stewart was appointed to read the Constitution, Rules of Decorum, and Articles of Faith.

Received Correspondence as follows, viz.:

From Tuscaloosa Association—Samuel Henderson, D. D., and Brother Joseph F. Appling.

From New River Association—Revs. J. B. Ferguson, J. N. Dickinson.

Returned Correspondence as follows, viz:

To Tuscaloosa Association—J. W. Bagwell, J. W. Rogers, J. A. Sumner, A. A. Smith, Wm. P. Smith, J. W. Stewart, J. H. Pool, L. B. Harbin, and J. N. Dickinson.

To New River Association—A. A Smith, A. W. Kilingsworth, Wm. Randolph, D. H. Clifton, J. F. McDuff, J. H. Pool and B. M. Kimbrell.

To Canaan Association –M. D. L. Sanders and E. J. Phillips.

Appointed the following committees, viz:

On Religious Exercise.—D. M. Kimbrell, D. H. Clifton, T. L. Gabbert, H. Beavers and H. G. Amerson.

On Documents.—J. W. Rogers, J. F. McDuff and J. W. Stewart.

On Nominations.—R. H. Smith, James S. Watts and G. D. O'Rear.

On Finance.—J. W. Bagwell, J. M. Sides and W. H. Redmill.

On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.—A A. Smith, L. R. Carter and M. D. L. Sanders.

The Association then adjourned till 8:30 A. M. Monday, September, 28th.

SECOND DAY'S SESSION,

Monday, Sept. 28th.

The Missionary Sermon was preached at 11 o'clock Sunday by Rev. Sam Henderson, D. D., from Psalms 72: 15. "And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba; payer also shall be made for him continually; and and daily shall he be praised."

There was preaching at 3 o'clock P. M. Sunday, by Rev. J. N. Dickinson, text: "We who believe do enter into rest."

Monday, September 28th, the Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, and prayer by J. W. Stewart, the minutes of Saturday's proceedings were read and adopted.

Adopted the following reports, viz:

ON DISTRICT MEETINGS.

First District.—The next District Meeting will be held with Bethel Church, commencing Friday before the 1st Sunday in September, 1886. L. B. Harbin to preach the Introductory Sermon; Wm. Patton alternate. J.

W. Rogers to preach at 11 o'clock Sunday; L. R. Carter alternate. Subjects for discussion—What is meant by "a new heaven and a new earth?" in Revelations 21st chapter and 1st verse, opened by A. A. Smith. 2d, what is meant by the "two witnesses" in the 11th chapter and 3d verse of Revelations. Opened by L. B. Harbin.

The next Session of the Association will be held with Pleasant Grove Church, Fayette County, Ala.

J. H. POOL, Clerk,

L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.

SECOND DISTRICT.—The next District Meeting will be held with Liberty Grove Church, 12 miles north-west of Jasper, commencing on Friday before the Second Sunday in September, 1886. H. H. Key to preach the Introductory Sermon; W. P. Smith, alternate. W. P. Smith to preach at 11 o'clock Sunday. L. Williams, alternate. Subject for discussion—"Has a Church the Scriptural right to invite other Churches of the same faith and order to commune with them?" Opened by W. B. Appling, R. H. Smith, alternate.

SAMUEL SNODDY, Clerk.

C. M. D. WILSON, Moderator.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to submit the following:

The growth of Sunday School work in our bounds at large has been rapid and encouraging. But while there is a rapid growth and higher appreciation of this important part of Church work in our country generally, we are pained to report that but little interest is manifested in some parts of our Association. For the development of this work we urge upon the pastors to press upon their Churches this most important work. From the letters sent from several of the Churches and information from the delegates, we report 16 Sunday Schools organized in the Churches of this Association. We hope that at the next meeting of our Association each and every Church will report a flourishing Sunday School. The following Churches are the remainder of the Churches inquired into, which have no Sunday Schools, to-wit: New Prospect, New Hope, Antioch, Samaria, Liberty Grove and Bethany.

Respectfully submitted, W. H. REDMILL, Chairman.

Rev. J. W. Rogers offered the following resolutions, which was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Association earnestly commend to the Baptist Sunday Schools in her bounds the works of the American Baptist Publication Society, published at Macon, Georgia, by S. Boykin, as sound in doctrine,

eminently evangelical in sentiment and far superior for use in Baptist Schools to any other publications known. The Chairman of the Committee on Temperance not being present,and the other members of the Committee not being ready to report, J. W. Stewart was appointed Chairman of said Committee, and 2 o'clock P. M., was the hour appointed to hear said report,

Adopted the following report on State Missions: We your Committee on State Missions would respectfully report, that it is a matter for profound thankfulness that there has been a great wakening in the Denomination throughout the whole State as to the importance of supplying the destitute regions within our bounds. The brethren are attempting to do more in this direction than at any previous period of our history, and there is a greater and a more growing disposition to work together.

As to the outcome of this new spirit the Board of Missions of our State Convention has been able to increase its work steadily for several years. During the year now closing there have been eighty-one missionaries in the field in different parts of the State. The results of their labors, if the details were at hand, would thrill your body and stimulate it to fresh and larger efforts. Suffice to say, that in the past year's work there have been manifest tokens of God's presence and approval. As missionaries, they have been proclaiming "glad tidings of great joy" in many destitute communities, enabling the poor to say with joy, we have the gospel preached unto us, and by the help of God and the power of the Holy Spirit leading many from the "powers of darkness into the marvelous light of the Gospel of the Son of God.

As Evangelists they have been indoctrinating weak churches, assisting in revivals, in the organization of Sunday Schools, prayer meetings and churches, thereby strengthening the things that remain, edifying and building up God's children in the most holy faith.

As colporteurs they have sold and given away hundreds of copies of Bibles, New Testaments and religious books,thereby supplying many destitute families too poor to obtain them otherwise. Who can estimate the amount of good accomplished through the labors of these servants ?

May the members of this Association become enthused in the salvation of souls and unite their efforts in the spread of the Gospel through all our land!

Respectfully submitted, R. H. SMITH, Chairman.

The Committees on Home and Foreign Missions not being ready with their reports, the same was passed and the Committees granted time to prepare their reports.

Heard and adopted the following report on education, to-wit :

The important subject of education is receiving comparatively little atten-

tion in our midst. None will dispute that education consecrated to the service of God, is a power almost unlimited in the support of truth, and the elevation of degraded humanity from the chains of vice and ignorance to higher plains of usefullness and happiness. Why will we neglect a matter so important. Our public school system is well nigh a failure, but they even are not patronized as liberally as they should be. The high schools in the country will not afford the training we need. We must look to our denominational schools for the higher education of the sons and daughters of this Association. But are we profiting by the splendid advantages offered in these schools ? No, I suppose that during the last ten years the membership of this association has furnished not exceeding six pupils to the fearless schools which the Baptists control in this State. Oh, what friends of education we are ! In years to come we will see the mistake we have made and are still making, but now is the time for us to improve the privileges we may enjoy. Howard College, standing with a record rarely equaled, inviting your sons to come and share the benefits it offers. The young preachers of our association by all means should go there.

The Judson Institute at Marion, and the Alabama Central Female College at Tuskaloosa, are schools for girls, absolutely unsurpassed in this country. The Central comprises all the old capitol buildings at Tuscaloosa. It is now presided over by joint principals, professors G. W. Thomas and S. B. Foster.

Brethren send your daughters there. As a source of general information and denominational reading, we recommend the Alabama Baptist, absolutely the best paper for the Baptists of Alabama to read. It is painful to know that in the North River Association, numbering more than twelve hundred, there are not a score of subscribers to this valuable paper. We can't afford to do without the information which it brings us. Brethren, you can't get along without the Alabama Baptist.

Submitted, J. W. STEWART, Chairman.

The association adjourned till 2 o'clock P. M.

EVENING SESSION.

At 2 o'clock. P. M. the association met pursuant to adjournment, and after singing and prayer, heard the following report on temperance, to-wit :

We, your committee on Temperance, are gratified to report that still the good work of temperance goes on. The spirit of prohibition is gaining ground. We rejoice that the time has come when Baptists cannot afford to visit places from which the agents of the greatest evil under the sun dispense the death water of ruin, to tarnish the name and poison the morals, and wreck the lives, and destroy the souls of the unwary.

It is the judgment of your Committee that no christian can afford to *drink* a *dram* of *spirits* as a *beverage*.

Strike for prohibition, and soon the fell monster will disappear from our land like mists from the burning sun. Sound, for the charge brethren, and follow the dark enemy till he shall disappear from the field, wearing the chains of the conquered. All hail to those who have labored in this noble and honorable cause. All glory to God for whatever of good has been accomplished.

Respectfully Submitted, JNO. W. STEWART.

Received correspondence from Mud Creek Association as follows, to-wit:

J. M. Hyche, with letter and minutes. Returned correspondence to Mud Creek Association, as follows to-wit: J. C. Hyche, and J: H. Pool.

Heard and adopted the report on Home Missions, as follows, to-wit.

We your Committee on Home Missions, beg leave to submit the following report: Brethren I have not collected any money for Home Missions. It seems that the brethren do not understand what Home Mission means, and therefore do not contribute any money for that purpose. The balance of the Committee I have not heard from. Brother R. N. Waldrop lives some twenty-five miles off in the south part of the county, and brother John Staggs lives in the north part of the county, and I know not whether they have done anything or not. They have made no report to me as Chairman of the Committee.

WM. RANDOLPH, Chairman.

ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The work of the Foreign Mission Board has been published and sent abroad over our State, so all can see the deplorable condition of the cause for the past year. The whole State should be aroused from her slumbers, as the amounts are so meager and the object in view so inviting and so precious. The salvation of the millions that now stand in heathenish darkness, bowing down to stock and stones, instead of the true and living God. They must be saved or lost, and our missionaries are crying for help on every hand. "No man livith to himself." We are upheld by the power of God. He has commanded us to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, and that he will give us (the children of God) the heathen for an inheritance, and "lo I am with you even to the end of the world." Wherever there are creatures the Gospel must and will go. But brethren, what have we done in this grand, noble cause? How have we acted toward our God and those poor, ignorant and benighted people that now stand aloof not having ever

heard the name of the true and living God. There is no other name given on earth or among men whereby they can be saved, except the name Christ Jesus. Now we have paid $31.25. The whole North River Association, 1300 professed Missionary Baptist. May God help us one and all to do better in the future, and walk worthy of our profession, and may our next session of this Association find us up, and well up to the divine requirements of our Lord and Master. "If ye know these things happy are ye if ye do them."

Respectfully Submitted, P. T. LAMPKIN, Chairman.

Received report on aged and infirm ministers, as follows:

We your Committee on aged and infirm ministers ask leave to report the following:

That we have carefully looked after the aged and infirm ministers of this body, and find one claiming the attention of this body, and that one is our well beloved brother L. B. Harden, who has spent his life in the ministry in the bounds of the North River Association and who is now aged and infirm Brethren will you not aid this good and faithful old brother? Let us rally to his relief the few remaining days he is permitted to stay here in our bounds, for love is the fulfillment of the law. We also recommend that you apply the associational fund for the present to his use, and we recommend that this body look well to his interest hereafter.

Respectfully Submitted, JAMES F. McDUFF Chairman.

NOTE: At the time the above report was made there was a collection taken up for Bro. L. B. Harbin, and $22.75 was received including $2.00 that has been handed in before. The associational fund amounting to $22.95 was also paid over to said Bro. L. B. Harbin, making $45.70 paid him as an aged and infirm minister.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

DEBTOR.

Received for minute funds	$34.00
Received from J. W. Rogers, former treasurer	$15.45
Total amount received	$49.45

CREDITOR.

By amount paid J. L. West, editor Alabama Baptist for printing 900 copies of minutes	$18.00
By expenses of mailing minutes	$4.98
By amount paid for wrapping paper	.05
By amount paid for writing paper	.20
Clerk's fees	$15.00
Total amount of credits	$38.23
Balance on hand	11.23

WM. RANDOLPH, Treasurer.

The moderator appointed the present Clerk as Treasurer.

DOCUMENTS.

We your Committee on documents beg leave to report that we have examined all the documents committed to us and find nothing that should specially claim the attention of this body, except that we recommend that Salem Church be dropped from our roll for failing to represent herself in the Association for several years in succession.

Submitted, J. W. ROGERS, Chairman.

ON NOMINATIONS.

J. W. Rogers to preach the Introductory sermon at 11 o'clock A. M. at the next session of our Association, W. P. Smith, alternate. H. A. Key, to preach the Missionary sermon, on Sunday at 11 o'clock, J. W. Stewart, alternate.

We recommend that the Association appoint the following brethren as delegates to the State Convention: J. W. Rogers, L. B. Harbin, J. W. Stewart, Wm. Randolph, W. P. Smith, T. P. Lampkin, J. T. McDuff, H. G. Amerson, C. M. D. Wilson and B. F. Thomas.

Submitted, R. H. SMITH, Chairman.

ON FINANCE.

We your Committee on finance respectfully report as follows:

Received for minutes	$32.90
Reeeived for Associational purposes	$22.95
Total amount received	$55·85

J. W. BAGWELL, Chairman.

Heard and adopted letters of correspondence to the following associations to-wit:

To Mud Creek Association; Caanan Association; New River Association; Tuscaloosa Association.

Heard and adopted report on prayer and prayer meetings, as follows to-wit:

We believe that prayer is the foundation of christian assurance, and we are dependant entirely upon God for his mercies and goodness; we are therefore taught in God's word that men ought always to pray, lifting up holy hands without wrath or doubting. We also believe that every brother or head of families ought to hold regular family prayer.

We also believe it is the duty of all pastors to instruct and encourage their members to hold family prayer. We also believe and recommend that every church in the bounds of our Association should establish a regular prayer meeting, for we have many evidences of the good effects of prayer meetings among God's people. We would call the attention of the brethren to where the people of God assembled in prayer for the delivery of Peter while in prison.

Submitted, A. A. SMITH, Chairman.

RFPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

DEBTOR.

Received at last Association	$81.25
Received from Churches since last Association	$122.70
Recieved from Sabbath collections	$18.00
Received on collections at Association for evangelist	$9.50
	$231.45

CREDITOR.

By amount paid State Mission Board	$73.25
By amount paid on monument of D. Manasco	$8.00
By amount paid J. W. Stewart, evangelist	$120.00
By amount paid for postage, money order &c	$1,00
Total amount of credits	$202.25
Balance on hand	$29.20

R. H. SMITH, Chairman.

The following standing committees were appointed, to-wit :

On Sunday Schools—A. A. Smith, J. F. McDuff and L. R. Carter.

On Temperance—J. W. Rogers, W. H. Redmill, and J. D. Pitman.

On State Missions—J. W. Stewart, B. M. Kimbrell, and H. G. Amerson.

On Home Missions.—Wm. Randolph, T. P. Lamkin and L. R. Carter.

On Foreign Missions—J. H. Pool, H. Beavers, and James S. Watts.

Executive Committee—R. H. Smith, T. P. Lamkin, J. W. Rogers, J. F. McDuff and J. S. Watts.

On Indigent Ministers—D. H. Clifton, James Patton and John King

J. W. Stewart offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the Clerk have 900 copies of our minutes printed and, that he be allowed $15,00 for his services.

J. W. Rogers offered the following resolution, which was adopted, viz :

Resolved, That this body recommend that the Sunday Schools in its bounds meet in convention by letter and delegates at Day's Gap, commencing on Friday before the 5th Sunday in August, 1886.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Church Association be expressed to Samaria Church and community, and also to the citizens of Jasper for their kind hospitality during this session.

The minutes were then read and adopted with certain amendments to be made by the Clerk.

After prayer by J. W. Rogers, and singing and extending the parting hand of Christian love and fellowship, the Association adjourned to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, Fayette county, Ala., three miles north of Studdard's Cross Roads, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1886.

S. LACY, Clerk.

L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.

BAPTIST DECLARATION OF FAITH.

1. On the Scriptures.—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, Salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian Union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

2. Of the True God.—That there is one true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinction of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious office in the great work of redemption.

3. Of the Fall of Man.—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness, required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defence or excuse.

4. Of the Way of Salvation.—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the law by his personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by his death being arisen from the dead, He is enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in this wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all sufficient Saviour.

5. Of Justification.—That the great Gospel Blessing, which Christ of his fullness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness, that it is not bestowed in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through its own redemption and righteousness, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

6. Of the Freeness of Salvation.—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ; which refusal will submit him to an aggravated condemnation.

7. Of Grace in Regeneration.—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated and born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel, and that its proper evidence is our voluntary obedience found in the holy fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God.

8. Of God's Purpose of Grace.—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistant with the moral agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; that it encour-

ages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel; it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

9. Of the Perseverance of Saints.—That such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

10. Harmony of the Law and Gospel.—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of His visible Church.

11. Of a Gospel Church.—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinance of Christ; governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit; to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

13. Of the Christian Sabbath.—That the first day of the week is the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreation by the devout observance of all the means of grace both private and public, and by preparation for the rest which remaineth for the people of God.

14. Of Civil Government.—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience, and the prince of the kings of the earth.

15. Of the Righteous and Wicked.—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such as only through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

16. Of the World to Come.—That the end of this world is approaching and that at the last day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a seperation will then take place, that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

CONSTITUTION OF N. R. B. A.

We, the Baptist Churches of Jesus Christ, are desirous of a reciprocal Union, we therefore propose to maintain the order and rules of the Association, according to the following plan.

We believe that the Churches of Christ are mutually independent of each other, and that the congregational form of church government should be inviolably preserved, yet being convinced of the utility of friendly intercourse and pious councils on the principles of reciprocal advantage and Christian love, we hold it to be the duty of the Churches to pay respect on these principles to the advice of the Association.

1st. The Association shall be composed of members chosen by the different Churches in our Union, who, on producing letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment shall be entitled to seats, the letters so produced shall express the condition of their churches respectively, viz: The number in fellowship, the number received by baptism, by restoration, dismissed, excommunicated and died since the last Association, which letters shall be read and the Delegates names enrolled.

2d. The members thus chosen and convened, shall be known by the name of North River Baptist Association.

3rd. We declare ourselves a Missionary body on the following plan: The Association may appoint an Executive Committee, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary or Missionaries to travel and preach the Gospel to the destitute in her bounds, and to enlarge their field of labor if necessary, and furthermore, it shall be the duty of said committee to appoint a Treasurer to take charge of all the money paid over by the several Churches for the support of the Mission, also said Treasurer shall make a correct report at each and every annual session of this body, of all money received, expenditures, and the surplus on hand, if any, which report shall be affixed to the minutes of the Association.

4th. The Association thus formed, shall choose by ballot, a Moderator and Clerk, who shall serve one year.

5th. This body shall have no coercive power to lord it over God's heritage, or to infringe on any of the internal privileges or rights of the Churches in our union, but shall only be considered an advisory council in all matters respecting their internal concerns.

6th. To give the Churches the best advice she can in all matters of difficulty, and if the union should be broken between any of the sister Churches, to inquire into the cause of the breach and use her best endeavors to remove the difficulty; but if the breach cannot be repaired to withdraw from any Church or Churches which they may look upon to be unsound in principle or immoral in practice until the same be reclaimed.

7th. To take up no case of any Church in our union, without the consent of a majority of the Churches.

8th. Newly constituted or dismissed Churches may be received into our union by their representatives as before stated, and the Moderator shall signify the same by giving the right hand of fellowship.

9th. The Association when convened shall be governed by such rules as she may adopt. She may adjourn from day to day until she shall have finished all the business that may be brought before her.

10th. Every Church numbering fifty members, or less, shall be entitled to three Delegates, and for every twenty-five members over fifty, one Delegate.

11th. To have the Minutes of the Association read and altered, if necessary and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the Association rises, and have them printed if she think proper.

12th. The Association shall in all cases be governed by a majority of the members.

13th. Voting shall be confined exclusively to the body in all acts respecting their internal concerns.

14th. To amend the plan or form of government at any time when a majority of the union shall deem it necessary.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed with prayer.

2d. But one person shall speak at a time, and he shall rise to his feet and address the Moderator.

3d. No member shall be interrupted while speaking unless he depart from the question, or use words of personal reflection

4th. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the consideration of the Association, except withdrawn by him who made it.

5th. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided orwithdrawn before another is offered.

6th. When any question is taken up by the Association, after allowing time for debate, the Moderator shall take the question by yeas and nays, or otherwise; and the decision thus made shall be announced by the Moderator immediately.

7th. No person shall depart from the service of the Association without leave of the Moderator.

8th. No person shall speak more than twice on the same subject without leave obtained.

9th. The appellation of brother shall be used in our address one to another.

10th. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege as any other member, provided he appoints some other member to his seat while speaking or otherwise, but shall not vote unless the Association be equally divided.

11th. Any member violating the above rules may be reproved as the Association may think proper, only on the day the offence shall have occurred.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

	CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICE	Sab. Meeting.	Baptized	Rec'd by Let'r	Dism. by Let'r	Excluded	Restored	Dead	Total	Pastor's Salary	State Missions	Home Miss'ns	For'gn Miss'ns	Minute Fund.	Ass'l Fund	Indigent Ministers' Fund
First District.	Origonia	L. B. Harbin	Toledo	1												$ 1 00		
	Mount Zion	L. B. Harbin	Toledo	2		1				1	20	$33 00				1 00	$ 50	
	Bethabara	J. W. Rog rs	Toledo	4	3						20	28 00	$13 25	$5 00	$ 5 25	1 30	1 30	
	Zion	Not represented											1 00					
	Pleasant Grove	J. N. Dickinson	Palo	2	31	8	4		2		163	100 00				3 00	2 00	
	Providence	J. R. Sartain	York	3	1	3	18		1		57					1 50	90	
	Pleasant Field	J. R. Sartain	York	2		2	2	4			22		3 15		1 00	1 60	50	
	New River	A. A. Smith	Kansas	1				2		1	28		5 00			1 00	60	
	Pls'nt G., Fay'te co.	J. L. Gilder	Eldridge	3			7	3			47					70	25	
	Macedonia	Not represented																
	Lebanon	L. B. Harbin	Toledo	3	1	1		1	1		46	14 00				1 00	80	
	Mount Joy	J. W. Rogers	Toledo	4	5	1		1	1	1	52		10 00			1 25	1 75	
	New Hope	No pastor given		4	1											2 00	50	
	Bethlehem	J. W. Rogers	Toledo	1		2	1	3	2		39	50 00	10 00		5 00	1 25	1 00	$7 50
	Bethel	L. B. Harbin	Toledo	4	1	1	1			1	15					1 00	50	
Second District.	New Prospect	Wm. P. Smith	Luckie	1	4	11	3	2	2		52					1 50	75	
	Mount Olive	L. Williams	Baldo	1			3		2		38					65	55	
	Jasper	J. W. Rogers		3	5		12				40	100 00	26 25		15 00	2 00	3 00	
	Antioch	J. R. Sartain	York and															
		Wm. Randolph	Jasper	2	1		3				50					2 00	50	
	Samaria	Wm. P. Smith	Luckie	4	11	1	2	1		2	87	30 00	10 00		5 00	3 00	3 00	
	Liberty Grove	H. A. Key	South Lowell	3	9	1	3	3		1	63					1 50		
	Hepsibah	Wm. P. Smith	Luckie	2		2	3	3			27					75	25	
	Friendship	John W. Snow	Leith	2				2		1						40	1 10	
	Bethany	No Pastor		4		1	3				43					1 20	50	
	Mount Carmel	H. A. Key	South Lowell	4			5	8			39		3 00			1 00	1 00	
	Day's Gap	J. N. Dickinson	Palo	4	10						33		1 00			2 00	1 00	
	Spring Hill	Not represented																
	TOTAL				83	35	70	32	11	8	981		$82 65	$5 00	$31 25	$33 60	$22 25	$7 50

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